

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-14 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /143 W

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P 121339Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2861

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO SP PBOR

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: DIPLOMATIC UPSWING

SUMMARY: MOROCCAN-SPANISH DIALOGUE PICKING UP WITH  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT TO MADRID BY PRIMIN OSMAN AND FONMIN  
LARAKI TO TAKE PLACE AUG 12. TRIP FOLLOWS OULD DADDAH'S  
VISIT TO RABAT, MARKED BY CORDIALITY AND AGREEMENT TO KEEP  
IN TOUCH ON SAHARA, AND RECENT ALGERIAN POLICY STATEMENT,  
WHICH WELCOMED HERE. LATTER DEVELOPMENTS POINT TO POSSIBLE  
THAW AMONG ARAB PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAHARA DISPUTE.  
END SUMMARY.

1. VISIT TO MADRID BY PRIMIN OSMAN AND FONMIN LARAKI  
ANNOUNCED BY GOM AUG 12. MOROCCANS TO BE RECEIVED BY  
SPANISH PRIMIN AND FONMIN IN MADRID SAME DAY. SPANISH  
EMBASSY HERE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR  
IMPROVEMENT IN CURRENT SPANISH-MOROCCAN ATMOSPHERE.

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2. MADRID TRIP FOLLOWS 24-HOUR STOPOVER IN RABAT AUG 9

AND 10 BY MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH, ACCCOMPANIED BY FONMIN MOUKNASS, ON WAY HOME FROM ALGIERS. IMMEDIATELY ON ARRIVAL, OULD DADDAH WENT INTO TALKS WITH KING HASSAN. THIS SESSION WAS FOLLOWED BY WELL-PUBLICIZED DINNER HOSTED BY KING AND ATTENDED BY PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT FIGURES. ATMOSPHERE OF VISIT DEPICTED AS HIGHLY CORDIAL BY SEMI-OFFICIAL MEDIA.

3. FRIENDLY TONE ALSO REFLECTED IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED FOLLOWING MAURITANIAN VISIT. TWO CHIEFS OF STATE, "IN CLIMATE MARKED BY UNDERSTANDING," DISCUSSED SAHARA AND THE TWO GOVERNMENTS DECIDED TO REMAIN IN CONTACT REGARDING LIQUIDATION OF COLONIALISM IN THAT REGION, ACCORDING COMMUNIQUE. EFFORTS ALSO ENVISAGED TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND OULD DADDAH MADE POINT OF THANKING MOROCCANS FOR HOSPITALITY DISPLAYED DURING VISIT.

4. COMMENT: OSMAN AND LARAKI VISIT TO MADRID COULD WELL PROVE MAJOR STEP TOWARD IMPROVING CURRENT ATMOSPHERE, ALTHOUGH IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER BREAKTHROUGH TOWARD SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT ON THORNY SAHARA PROBLEM CAN BE ACHIEVED. IN ANY CASE, DIALOGUE, BY SUSTAINING APPEARANCE OF POLITICAL MOMENTUM, PRESUMABLY LESSENS POSSIBILITY OF RASH MOVE BY GOM, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING.

5. GOM IS OBVIOUSLY INTENT ON HAVING ACTIVE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS UNDERWAY WHICH WILL KEEP SPOTLIGHT ON SAHARA, WITH UNGA AS ONE FOCUS IN NEAR TERM. AT SAME TIME, THIS SEEMS PROPITIOUS MOMENT FROM MOROCCAN POINT OF VIEW TO STEP UP DIALOGUE WITH MADRID. AS BACKDROP, MOROCCAN EMISSARIES TO VARIOUS WORLD CAPITALS ALREADY BEGINNING TO RETURN HOME, AMID GLOWING PRESS REPORTS OF SUPPORT THEY HAVE LINED UP FOR MOROCCAN POSITION ON SAHARA. MADRID TRIP WILL AVERT LULL FOLLOWING EMISSARIES' RETURN, AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE GOM'S CAMPAIGN MAY HAVE GENERATED ON GOS THUS FAR.

6. ON MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN-ALGERIAN EXCHANGES, GOM HAS PUT BEST FACE ON OULD DADDAH VISIT, AND SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS HAS PRAISED RECENT ALGERIAN STATEMENT (ALGIERS 1734).  
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THUS, GOM IS AT LEAST PLAYING DOWN IN PUBLIC ITS DIFFERENCES WITH ALGERIANS AND MAURITANIANS. WHETHER THIS REFLECTS ACTUAL MOVEMENT TOWARD SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT REMAINS UNCLEAR.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPANISH SAHARA: DIPLOMATIC UPSWING SUMMARY: MOROCCAN-SPANISH DIALOGUE PICKING UP WITH  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, MO, SP, (OSMAN, AHMED), (LARAKI, AHMED)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005